



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 253

Chairperson: Deb Fischer
Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications
Date of Hearing: February 20, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Currently, all motorcycle or moped operators are required to wear protective helmets on state highways. LB 253 will allow certain motorcycle or moped operators who are 21 or older the choice on whether or not to wear a protective helmet. Those under the age of 21 will continue to be required to wear a protective helmet. Those 21 and over on and after the effective date of this act will be required to wear a protective helmet, unless they have successfully completed a motorcycle safety course.

LB 253 will add \$5 to the motorcycle registration fee starting October 1, 2007, while maintaining the Motorcycle Safety Education Fund until January 1, 2008, at which time the name of the fund becomes the Motorcycle Safety and Training Fund. The purpose in the raised motorcycle registration fee is to provide funding for the expected increase in demand by motorcycle operators to enroll in a motorcycle safety course.

LB 253 exempts operators who are 21 and over on or after January 1, 2008 from the requirement to wear a protective helmet, provided they take an approved motorcycle safety course, carry proof of successful completion of the motorcycle safety course and wear eye protection.

LB 253 exempts operators who were born prior to January 1, 1987 from the requirement to wear a protective helmet, provided they wear eye protection and had a Class M license prior to January 1, 2008. They will not be required to carry proof of successful completion of a motorcycle safety course.

LB 253 will require the use of eye protection. Eye protection under the act is defined as glasses that cover the orbital region of the operator's face, a protective shield attached to a helmet, goggles or a windshield on the motorcycle that protects the operator's horizontal line of vision in all operating positions.

LB 253 will require the words "helmet not required" to be printed on the operators' license for those who are exempt from wearing a helmet.

LB 253 will allow an individual to be charged as a secondary offense any violation of this act, unless it is related to the failure to wear eye protection which shall be a primary offense. The minimum fine for any conviction for operation of a motorcycle without a Class M license or endorsement is increased from \$10 to \$75. Any individual violating the Motorcycle Safety and Training Act shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

Principal Introducer:

_____ **Senator Kent Rogert**